



**World  
Physiotherapy**  
Europe region

**Information document –  
European Union (EU) funding  
opportunities for the Europe Region  
Member Organisations**

**Advocacy & EU Matters Working Group (A&EUMWG)**

**NOTED**

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**Riga, Latvia**

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT -  
EUROPEAN UNION (EU) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EUROPE REGION  
MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

**Europe Region  
Advocacy & EU Matters Working Group**

## **CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. EU LONG-TERM BUDGET AND HOW IT WORKS.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.1 Multiannual Financial Framework.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.2 EU programmes .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1.3 Work Programmes and priorities.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. STEPS TO APPLY FOR EU FUNDING .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2.1 You are the project coordinator.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2.2 You are a partner .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ANNEX 2: EXAMPLE 2024 EU4HEALTH WORK PROGRAMME .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>ANNEX 3: PARTNER SEARCH ON THE EU FUNDING &amp; TENDERS PORTAL .....</b>	<b>14</b>

## INTRODUCTION

The European Union offers funding opportunities for organisations to contribute to the long-term health challenges in Europe. These opportunities and the functioning of EU programmes are often unknown by the Europe Region Member Organisations (MOs). In many cases MOs would be eligible to apply for funding to carry on national or international projects that could strengthen the recognition of physiotherapy in their country.

EU funds give an opportunity to collaborate with expert partners to bring solutions to current health challenges and find the best ways to implement innovations and bring ideas to action. Additionally, getting more EU funds for physiotherapy-led projects will increase the visibility and recognition of the profession throughout Europe. This helps consolidate the key role of physiotherapy in the national healthcare systems. Moreover, preparing applications for funding can also be helpful for Member Organisations, as it will require a reflecting process that could be translated into a proper plan, long-term strategy, and enlargement of networks. All these elements will be useful for the member organisation, even if the application is finally not successful.

This document aims to support and encourage Member Organisations of the Europe Region to get informed, apply for funding, and start new international collaborations within the Region.

## 1. EU LONG-TERM BUDGET AND HOW IT WORKS

### 1.1 Multiannual Financial Framework

The European Commission, through the [long-term budget or multiannual financial framework](#), currently defined for [2021-27](#), provides [different types of funding](#), governed by the [Financial Regulation](#), to support all EU policy objectives. To see who can get funding, [click here](#).

Several EU programmes and funds can be found [here](#), such as [Horizon Europe](#) (a presentation outlining the programme in 23 languages can be found [here](#)), [EU4Health](#), and [Erasmus+](#). Calls for funding by topic can be found [here](#).

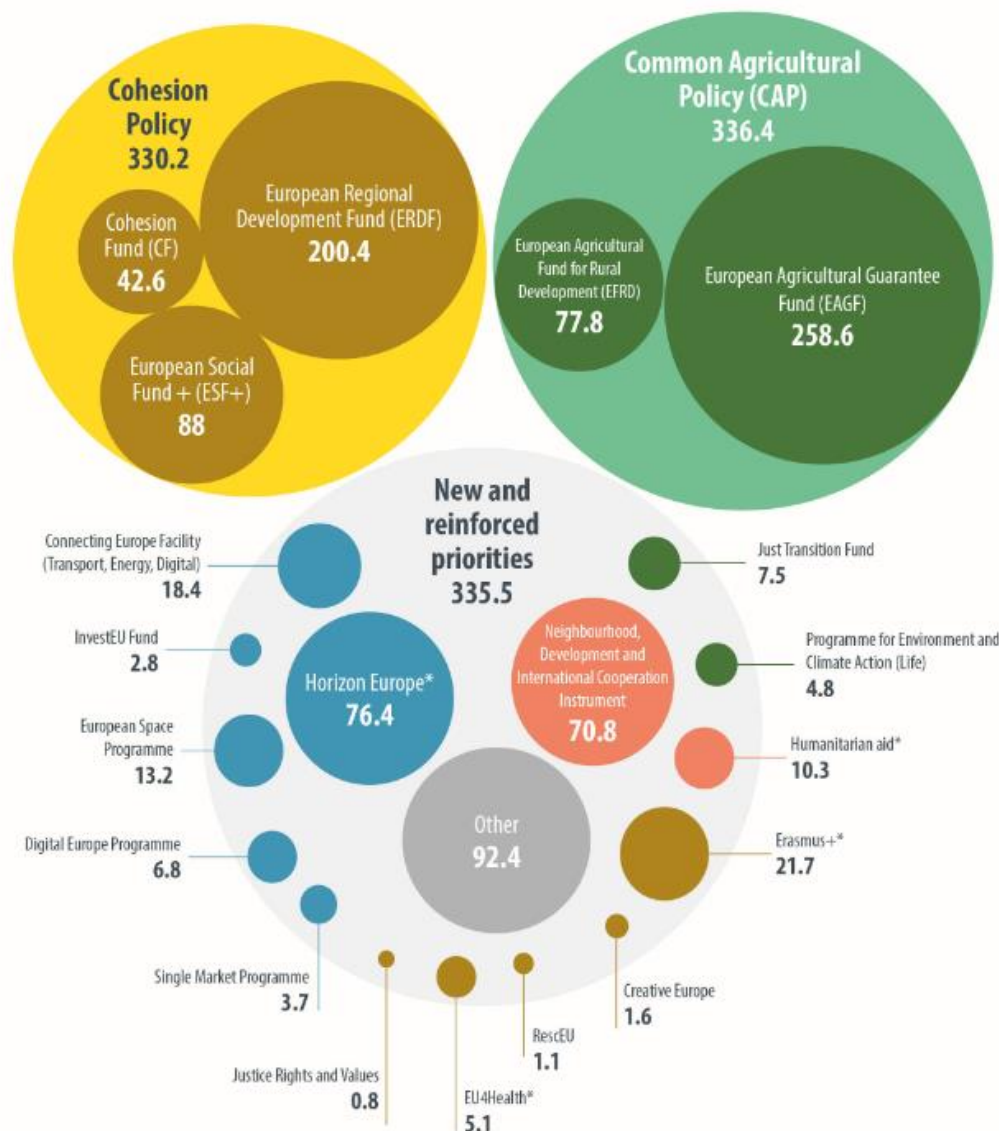
### 1.2 EU programmes

The Multiannual Financial Framework divides the overall budget of the European Union into funding programmes based on the themes and priorities forecast for the following years.

**Figure 1:**  
Multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 and Next Generation EU - Main programmes and funds under the multiannual financial framework

### Main programmes and funds under the multiannual financial framework

All amounts in € billion (2018 prices)



<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/mff2021-2027-ngeu-final/>

Member Organisations are not eligible to apply to all EU programmes. The main EU funding programmes under which national physiotherapy organisations could submit a proposal and be successful are the following:

- **Health Programme - EU4Health**: This programme provides funding for projects related to health promotion, disease prevention, and healthcare systems. The aim of the EU4Health programme is to contribute to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient, and more accessible health systems. Member Organisations may be able to apply for funding for projects related to the promotion of physical activity or improving the integration of physiotherapy services into healthcare systems.

EU4Health works together with other European Union programmes, policies, instruments, and actions, for example:

- **Erasmus+**: This is a programme funded by the EU that supports education, training, and youth development. It provides opportunities for individuals and organisations involved in physiotherapy to participate in projects and training activities, including exchanges, vocational education, and strategic partnerships. Higher Education Institutions are the main beneficiaries of this programme, but other organisations are also eligible.
- **Horizon Europe**: This is the EU's flagship research and innovation programme, which aims to support scientific excellence and address societal challenges. Member Organisations can participate in research and innovation projects that focus on health, including areas such as rehabilitation, prevention, and health promotion.

Other potentially useful programmes:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**: This programme supports economic development in different regions of the EU. Member Organisations can apply for funding for projects that aim to improve the quality of healthcare services and infrastructure in their region.
- **European Social Fund (ESF)**: This programme supports employment and social inclusion in the EU. Member Organisations can apply for funding for projects that aim to improve the skills and employability of individuals in the healthcare sector, including training and upskilling programmes.
- **Active and Assisted Living (AAL) Program**: This programme supports the development of innovative technologies and services for active and healthy ageing. Member Organisations can participate in projects that aim to develop and test new technologies and services that can support physiotherapy interventions and improve the quality of life of older adults.
- **Structural Reform Support Programme**: This programme provides technical assistance to Member States to help them implement structural reforms. Member Organisations may be able to apply for funding for projects related to improving the quality of physiotherapy services or developing national strategies for the profession.

### 1.3 Work Programmes and priorities

Each of the mentioned EU programmes has a specific allocated budget (Figure 1) that is distributed and implemented through “Work Programmes” released every year to address specific priorities. The priorities for these programmes for the following year are set by the EU Commission, usually in Q4 of the preceding year. Proposals for projects addressing these priorities will have higher chances of receiving funding. Each “Work Programme” will announce calls for proposals for the following year and the estimated release time under the different strands.

For example, the EU4Health programme is clustered under four overarching “strands” with a cross-cutting focus on cancer: (1) Crisis preparedness, (2) Health promotion and disease prevention, (3) Health systems and Healthcare Workforce and (4) Digital. These areas of intervention have specific objectives to address, according to the priorities defined by the EU Commission. Some of EU4Health’s thematic priorities for 2024 are Mental Health, Cancer, and NCDs prevention and management. The Region’s Secretariat is always attentive to the priorities of the European Union. Please contact the Secretariat of the Europe Region ([info@erwcpt.eu](mailto:info@erwcpt.eu)) if you have any questions about current priorities in the European Union.

Following the priorities, the EU4Health yearly Work Programmes announce the calls for the following year. An example of the 2024 EU4Health Work Programme can be found in Annex 2 of this document.

## 2. STEPS TO APPLY FOR EU FUNDING

STEP 1	
STEP	TIPS
Reflect on the main current challenges for the profession in your country or/and Europe and how to overcome them and try to find links with the priorities of the European Union.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Usually, challenges faced by Member Organisations are similar in Europe. Make sure that you liaise with other MOs to identify common ground.</li> <li>- Contact the Secretariat of the Europe Region (<a href="mailto:info@erwcpt.eu">info@erwcpt.eu</a>) if you have any doubts about current priorities in the EU.</li> </ul>
STEP 2	
STEP	TIPS
Check which EU funding programme your idea or potential project could fit into and identify whether there is an upcoming call that would suit you through the assessment of the latest available Work Programme. e.g., What are the requirements to apply? Do you comply with those requirements in the EU funds? Which EU funding programme suits your project in mind best?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit the European Commission’s official page of the <a href="#">EU Funding and Tenders Portal</a> to get an overview of available calls for proposals. Once you have identified one or more themes that look interesting, review the call to confirm if it is suitable and that your project proposal matches the call perfectly. Additional tips for reading the calls of proposals can be found in <a href="#">this link</a>.</li> </ul>

	<p>Please note that some EU calls for funding are also released at national level (indirect management). It is recommended to also browse national governments' official websites. (indirect management – see Annex 1).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generally, the Work Programmes within the same EU funding programme do not vary much from year to year. By taking a look at the previous years' calls (also available at the <a href="#">EU Funding and Tenders Portal</a>), Member Organisations can already get an approximate idea of when the next call will be released and prepare in advance.</li> <li>- There are regular online information sessions organised by the EU Commission that inform about each call, how to apply, and what to keep in mind when writing the proposal.</li> </ul>
STEP 3	
STEP	TIPS
<p>Reflect on whether you have the expertise/resources to lead a project.</p>	<p>It is necessary to understand the differences between being a coordinator and a partner. The coordinator role will take a lot of your time as you will be in charge of drafting and submitting the project proposal and if the proposal is successful all administrative tasks including reporting and financial follow-up will fall on you. Thus, you will need to make sure that your staff members have the skills to carry on these tasks.</p> <p>*See Annex 1</p>
STEP 4	
STEP	TIPS
<p>Make sure that your organisation is registered in the EU Funding and Tenders Portal. Once the registration is completed, you will receive a PIC number which will be the identification code of your organisation for all EU programmes. You will not be able to start any application for EU funding until you get the PIC number.</p>	<p>You will need to first create an EU login account before registering your organisation. The EU Commission has a <a href="#">search engine</a> to check whether your organisation is already registered. If you would like to register, follow the steps in <a href="#">this link</a>.</p>

## 2.1 You are the project coordinator

STEP 1	
STEP	TIPS
<p>Start drafting the project proposal or hire an external company to do it, more questions will come up when you start doing this job. Every proposal should include two main parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Administrative information with data on the participants, contact person, legal declarations, etc.</li> <li>- Technical description of the project. This is the core of the proposal and includes the Work Packages, activities, deliverables, budget, time plan, KPIs, and others. Partners will need to justify why their proposed project should get funding and how it aligns with the objectives of the EU. If the proposal is successful, everything that is written in the document submitted will be binding for the partners. Thus, all the information that is included in the proposal should be realistic.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are private companies specialised in building proposals to different EU funds. We suggest you explore this option if you think you could coordinate a project but you do not have the time or expertise to build the proposal.</li> <li>- Check previous projects funded through the same EU programme to gain some inspiration to build your proposal. You can find a list with links to access previous EU-funded projects <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- When you start drafting the proposal, make sure you also start the application process for the call through the Funding and Tenders Portal so you can regularly submit the different aspects of the proposal you work on, instead of leaving everything for the last day.</li> </ul>
STEP 2	
STEP	TIPS
<p>If the call you are planning to apply for requires the creation of an international Consortium and you need to find a partner, reflect on your current network and whether any organisation could fit into the needs of your project. When reflecting on the current network, you can think of the Europe Region, other Member Organisation(s), Higher Education Institutions, NGOs, other health stakeholders, etc.</p> <p>If you cannot find the partners you are looking for within your own network, you can search for possible partners on this EU platform <a href="#">Portal Partner Search</a>, which provides a database of registered organisations that you can filter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure you find trusted partners that fit you, with whom communication goes easily and that have a similar aim.</li> <li>- To improve the chances that your proposal will get funding, make sure that your proposal has a European scope, with a geographical and gender balance between partners.</li> <li>- It is important to look for organisations that received funding in the past. Participate in conferences and events where there are networking opportunities to meet possible partners interested in your topic.</li> <li>- When a call for proposals is published, the EU Funding and Tenders Portal allows organisations to publish their interest in participating in that call and they can either express that they (Annex 3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer expertise;</li> <li>• Look for expertise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	By checking those organisations who offer their expertise, you might identify a potential partner in your proposal which you can contact through the platform.
STEP 3	
STEP	TIPS
Hold several online/face-to-face meetings with your planned partners, and negotiate the budget, time frame, and responsibilities. Make sure that they understand their role and that they can execute their allocated tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure that all your partners are eligible for the funding programme by checking the rules of the call.</li> <li>- Your staff and the staff of the partner organisations should have sufficient knowledge about the field of the activity. During these meetings, try to identify with the partners the potential challenges and risks that could happen during the project and think of ways to overcome them.</li> <li>- Set internal deadlines for the submission of feedback by the partners so that there is sufficient time to work on the proposal before the deadline set up in the call.</li> </ul>
STEP 4	
STEP	TIPS
Follow the administrative steps set by the EU Commission for each funding programme and submit the proposal via the Funding and Tenders Portal once all the steps are completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In addition to the technical content, partners will need to send you signed administrative and financial documents. Make sure that you receive these in time.</li> <li>- Do not leave the submission of the proposal until the last day as there is sometimes IT malfunctioning due to high traffic on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal when deadlines for calls approach.</li> </ul>
STEP 5	
STEP	TIPS
Once submitted, you will be notified within a few months if the proposal has been successful or not. If successful, you will need to sign a grant agreement with the EU Commission and make different administrative arrangements.	Communicate with the partners as soon as you receive the notification from the Commission.

## 2.2 You are a partner

STEP 1	
STEP	TIPS
Check if there is an interesting call coming up.	If you identify a call that might be interesting and you don't have the resources to be the project coordinator, contact the Europe Region or other Member Organisations to explore the feasibility of building a joint proposal where you would be a partner.
STEP 2	
STEP	TIPS
If the Europe Region or other Member Organisation are not planning to apply to the call and you would still like to participate, check whether any organisation is looking for expertise on that call through the EU Funding and Tenders Portal and whether you meet the requirements (Annex 3).	If you meet the requirements proposed by the organisation looking for expertise, contact them to express your willingness to participate, why you would like to be part of that project, and showcase your experience and expertise on the topic.
STEP 3	
STEP	TIPS
If contacts to be part of a proposal have been fruitful, engage in discussions with the project coordinator to agree on the activities that you will perform/deliver, the budget you will receive if the proposal is successful, as well as the time plan.	- Make sure that the activities proposed by the project coordinator for your organisation are achievable, that the budget proposed covers your financial needs, and that the time plan for your allocated activities is sensible.
STEP 4	
STEP	TIPS
Provide all requested information in due time to the project coordinator.	
STEP 5	
STEP	TIPS
The project coordinator will be notified within a few months if the proposal has been successful or not. If successful, you will be required to make administrative arrangements.	The project coordinator will inform you of the application's status, and often will offer the feedback received from the programme's evaluators. The feedback can be useful for tips for future applications and it can inform how to improve the application process, in general.

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## ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY

<b>1. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN:</b>	
<b>TENDER</b>	<b>GRANT</b>
<p>You apply for the specific project/task/job that you would like to do. Public procurement is the purchase of services, supplies, or works by a contracting authority (EU Institution in the Member State) via a public contract. In the case of a contract, the contracting authority obtains a product or service it needs in return for payment. If you are looking for public procurement contracts, please see <a href="#">tender opportunities</a>.</p>	<p>Grants are direct financial contributions from the European Union budget awarded by way of a donation to third-party beneficiaries (usually non-profit organisations) engaged in activities that serve EU policies. Grants are usually given through open calls for proposals, but may sometimes also be awarded directly without a call.</p> <p>In the case of a grant, it makes a contribution either to a project carried out by an external organisation or directly to that organisation because its activities contribute to EU policy aims.</p>
<p><i>Reference and more information:</i> <a href="#">EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal</a> which is the central electronic portal for all EU funding and tenders and <a href="#">EU funding for beginners</a>.</p>	
<b>EU FUNDING PROGRAMME</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME</b>
<p>Multiannual financial initiative established by the EU to support various projects, activities and policies across Member States in a certain field.</p> <p>Examples include EU4Health and Erasmus+. A certain amount of funding is allocated to each of these programmes for a total number of years. This total amount will be allocated to different calls through the work programmes.</p>	<p>The annual or multiannual document, released by the EU Commission, which describes the activities that will be undertaken during a certain period of time as well as the overall objectives, the respective destinations, calls for proposals, and the topics within each call and the general rules (standard admissibility conditions, eligibility criteria, selection, and award criteria) applied for a specific EU funding programme.</p> <p>See Annex 2.</p>
<p><i>Reference and more information:</i> <a href="#">EU Funding &amp; Tenders Portal</a> and <a href="#">Horizon Europe glossary</a>.</p>	
<b>2. CONSORTIUM</b>	
<p>An EU partnership, also known as a consortium, is an association of two or more individuals, organisations, companies, universities, public authorities, or any combination of these entities that can be considered an EU public or private partner. EU partners share a common objective, the participation in the development and the implementation of one or more EU projects in order to achieve the expected objectives. Partners that participate in a consortium, have to establish a regular collaboration working coherently on the projects' programming process.</p>	
<p><i>Reference and more information:</i> <a href="#">EU calls</a></p>	

3. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COORDINATOR AND PARTNER IN A CONSORTIUM	
COORDINATOR	PARTNER
<p>Project coordinator is the one who manages the consortium work and contacts the EU on behalf of the consortium, so that the partners can focus on executing their project tasks. The coordinator is the lead beneficiary in a group of beneficiaries and the main contact point for the EU regarding project implementation.</p>	<p>A consortium requires collaboration between organisations from different EU countries – these organisations are called partners. Any company, organisation or a non-governmental organisation can be a partner, regardless of where they are based, provided they are financially viable and qualified to perform the tasks specified in the project proposal. Partners are responsible for the delivery of agreed activities according to Work Packages the Consortium drew up for the funding application call.</p>
<p><i>Reference:</i> <a href="#">Horizon Europe Glossary</a> and <a href="#">Funding and tenders Portal</a>  <i>More information:</i> <a href="#">Partner or coordinator – what are your responsibilities in the consortium?</a></p>	
4. MANAGEMENT OF EU FUNDING	
<p>All the programmes funded by the EU budget fall under one of three types of implementation modes depending on the nature of the funding concerned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>direct management:</b> EU funding is managed directly by the European Commission,</li> <li>• <b>shared management:</b> the European Commission and national authorities jointly manage the funding,</li> <li>• <b>indirect management:</b> funding is managed by partner organisations or other authorities inside or outside the EU.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Reference and more information:</i> <a href="#">European Union funding, grants and subsidies</a></p>	

## ANNEX 2: EXAMPLE 2024 EU4HEALTH WORK PROGRAMME

### 2.3 OPERATING GRANTS

**DP-g-24-33.1/2 Call for proposals for operating grants in 2024, and call for proposals for a Framework Partnership Agreement for operating grants (2025-2026) to non-governmental organisations: financial contribution to the functioning of health non-governmental bodies implementing one or more specific objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/522**

#### POLICY CONTEXT

NGOs play a major role among others in providing aid at Union, national and local levels. In the field of health, and especially public health, they provide services directly to patients and individuals being in some cases in the first line of action also during emergencies. NGOs are also essential in bridging the gap between institutions and patients and facilitating communication at national and Union level. These organisations are not-for-profit and therefore necessarily rely on funding from different sources, for instance private donations, national or international contributions, however it is important they address funding sustainability of their operations.

The Commission considers it important that there is continuity in the work carried out by the health NGOs in addressing current health challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, and intends to award operating grants under this work programme to eligible NGOs, and to launch a Framework Partnership Agreement ('FPA') for a duration of two years (2025-2026).

#### INDICATIVE TIMETABLE, BUDGET, IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURE TYPE

Call topic/sub-topic	Indicative call publication	Indicative Budget
a) Operating grants – DP-g-24-33.1	Q4/2023	EUR 9 000 000
b) Framework Partnership Agreement - DP-g-24-33.2	Q1/2024	
Procedure type	Implemented by	Type of applicants targeted
Two open calls for proposals for: a) operating grants for 2024 b) a Framework Partnership Agreements for 2025-2026	HaDEA	NGOs active in the public health area

The call will, at due time, appear in the EU Funding and Tender Portal and it will be open for submission.

The screenshot shows the 'Funding & tender opportunities' portal. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text 'Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)'. Navigation tabs include 'HOME', 'SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS', 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE', 'PROJECTS & RESULTS', 'WORK AS AN EXPERT', and 'SUPPORT'. A search bar is present with a 'Need help?' button. The search results show 1 item found for the 'EU4Health Programme (EU4H)'. The item is titled 'Call for proposals for operating grants to non-governmental organisations: financial contribution to the functioning of health non-g...'. The submission status is 'Open for submission' and the grant type is 'Grant'.

### ANNEX 3: PARTNER SEARCH ON THE EU FUNDING & TENDERS PORTAL

The screenshot shows the 'Cooperation Partnerships' section for the 'ERASMUS-SPORT-2024-SCP' topic. The page title is 'Call for proposal'. The 'Internal navigation' menu includes: General information, Topic updates, Topic description, Conditions and documents, Partner search announcements, Start submission, Topic related FAQ, and Get support. The main content area shows '1. Eligible countries: as described in the Call document.' followed by a text block: 'EU Member States participate fully in all actions of the Erasmus+ Programme. In addition, in accordance with article 19 of the Erasmus+ Regulation, the following third countries are associated to the programme:...' with a 'Show more' link. Below this, there is a section for 'Partner search announcements' showing '132 Searches of partners to collaborate on this topic' with a 'View / Edit' button. A note at the bottom states: 'LEARs, Account Administrators or self-registrants can publish partner requests for open and forthcoming topics after logging into this Portal, as well as any user having an active public Person profile.'